



Bethany Ministries, YPWC Spring Newsletter 2022

## *God is Spoken of Here*

Bethany Retreat Center | Life Line Infant & Pregnancy Services | Direct Service To Community | Anawim Community | Youth Programs

### ***“Be doers of the word, and not just hearers.” - James 1:22***

Often just one or two steps are all that are required. We all have examples where a first step or even just a small shift in perspective has led to profound changes and impact. In orienting ourselves more in the direction of gospel-living, small actions can have profound impacts. In Mark's gospel Jesus teaches that anyone who takes a step in support of the good news will see a result one hundredfold or greater. Jesus even promises this increase first now and then again in the age of eternal life.

Our neighbor Tim has an injured knee and arthritic hips. He can't kneel to clean his bathtub or toilet. A Bethany volunteer stopped by to do a simple bathroom clean up. I picture that friend kneeling in a universal posture of prayer, to be a living example of the good news. This small act is part of literally helping Tim as he gets back on his feet. Tim shared afterward that he is hoping to make a space in his home available for someone in the area who is currently unhoused. And so it goes. Small acts beget greater acts of compassion and mercy.

While I want to wish you all a powerful, impactful, and blessed Lent and Easter, even more so I want to thank you for what an amazing blessing you have been to us at Bethany. Your gracious acts of kindness and support of our community have made these 2+ years of pandemic living fruitful and blessed. My favorite quote from W.B. Yeats reminds me of all of us as we grow closer to Christ-centered living and the good news. ***“It seemed so great my happiness, that I was blessed and could bless.”*** This quote fills me with gratitude for each of you. My prayer is that each one of you, and all of us collectively are having powerful Lenten experiences, and will have a blessed Easter.

I would also like to invite you to one of those small-step experiences. On Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, we walk the Way of the Cross up the hill above Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville, PA. This simple walk is another example of how it only takes small steps. Last year, as we approached The Fifth Station, I was brought to tears. Holy Spirit tears welled up as Sr. Ruth Ann read a short passage sharing how we become more fully human when we invite God to bring us beyond ourselves. Sr. Ruth Ann gave thanks for the encounters with God's love that liberate and enrich us. I invite you to come and take a short walk with us. Come and look at the horizon from a new vantage point, a small shift in perspective. Come see things through the perspective of The Cross and hope in The Resurrection.

Blessings to all,

~ Doug Laplante

# Our Christmas Program – Faith, Hope and Love in Action

***So, faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these is love . - 1 Corinthians 13:13***

According to the calendar, Christmas occurs during the winter, however the effects of our Christmas Program continue to be felt every day of the year. We begin to interview our families in early October by asking the question: “What do you need and how can we help?” This year the last family to be sponsored connected with us on December 22. That evening I took their need with me and shopped for clothing, winter boots and a vacuum. I could share with you the heart wrenching story of the dad who found himself as a single parent on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, or of the grandparents who have 4 grandkids living with them now. But what I am most touched by is the transformation in hearts and homes. I see an increase in faith of our neighbors in need, and witness a sense of hope through the thankyou’s we receive and the outpouring of love through the sponsors that help with this program. Last year we served 82 families - that is 322 adults and children! If you would like to assist with the program this year, please contact Sr. Suzanne Thibault, C.A., at [bethanyyouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyyouthcenter@gmail.com).

## Bethany Blueberry Festival, July 23, 2022

Mark your calendar and plan to spend a fun-filled day with us at Bethany Retreat Center with a silent auction, special raffle items, arts and crafts for kids of all ages, homemade blueberry pies, great food and much more!

**Saturday, July 23, 2022**  
**11:00 am – 5pm**  
**1031 Germania Rd.**  
**Frenchville, PA 16836**



## Upcoming Events

Check us out at [bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://bethanyretreatcenter.org) for 2022 retreat opportunities and set some time to visit us and renew your spirit! Here are just a few options:

April 8-10 **Neuroscience and Wellbeing** led by Anne Kertz Kernion

April 15 **Stations of the Cross** – check our website for details

April 16 **Labyrinth 1-Day Retreat** with Sr. Suzanne Thibault

April 29-May1 **Art & Creation Retreat** with Mary Kay Laplante and Elle Morgan

April 23 **Native American Drumming** with Tom Campbell

May 15-21 **Welcoming, Forgiveness and Centering Prayer Retreat** with Mary Dwyer

## We Serve God by Serving Others

Sr. Therese Dush, CA, our foundress and spiritual guide, taught us to put love into action by serving our neighbors in need with respect and dignity. Each family we help is unique and each project is designed to fit their particular need.

One neighbor (name withheld) came to us by a local service agency due to concern for her health and welfare. She had been threatened by an outside source and her front door had been smashed and broken. Our volunteers, Mike, Dale and Dan removed the old sliding glass door and installed a new French Door which locked and made her home more secure.

Another family dealing with a health crisis had nowhere else to turn. Martha, the matriarch of her family, was finally coming home after having suffered a stroke and completed her rehabilitation.

Her home, however, was not equipped for a person with special medical needs. Specifically, her bathroom needed to be upgraded and outfitted with safety features to accommodate her setting. Our team worked together with the family to dismantle the old bathroom and re-outfit



*Crystal and Martha*

it with a new handicap accessible shower and multiple grab bars to make it safe for Martha. Crystal, her youngest daughter and caretaker, is so grateful for this service work that allows her to take the best possible care of her mom in a safe environment.

These service projects may seem small, but to each family they are vital necessities that transform homes into safer environments and transform lives for the better. Both projects allowed God’s work to happen through love and care of neighbor.

# *Anawim Community and Anawim Associates Program*



Sr. Suzanne Thibault, CA  
Sr. Ruth Ann Madera, CA

Prayer, simplicity, hospitality, and service in the spirit of the Beatitudes are at the heart of the life of the Anawim Community and the Anawim Associates. Our Associate Program gives lay men and women the opportunity to become more closely associated with the Anawim Sisters, our spirituality and our ministries. Associate Members live out Anawim Spirituality in their own families, communities and lives by fostering a sense of dependence upon God, trusting in and deepening that relationship, walking in faith, living in hope, and reaching out to those in need.

If you would like to know more about the Anawim Community or the Anawim Associates Program please call (814) 263-4855 or email Sr. Ruth Ann Madera at [ruthann.madera@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthann.madera@yahoo.com) or Sr. Suzanne Thibault at [anawimco@gmail.com](mailto:anawimco@gmail.com), or write to the Anawim Community, P.O. Box 35, Frenchville, PA 16836.

## *Leona Davis, Treasured Volunteer and Friend*

After a 27-year career in management and customer service, Leona moved back to her family home in Frenchville, PA in 1993 and quickly became acquainted with YPWC Mission. In coming to various events, she discovered a kinship with Sr. Therese Dush, our foundress, (they shared an aunt and uncle!) and thus began a beautiful friendship.

Volunteering and giving back to community has always been a priority for Leona. While living in Ridgway PA, she was a very active member of St. Leo's parish. For many years, she and a dedicated group of parishioners worked with the Religious Ed program to bring students in both public and parochial schools together to serve at Masses.



Leona Davis

She is a wonderful example of living life to the fullest, regardless of your age, in hope and gracious hospitality. Her involvement with YPWC - from dog sitting for Sr. Suzanne's beloved Trixie to sorting blueberries for us, and helping with special events - has proven her to be a much-appreciated volunteer.

One of the things she is most appreciated for is her delicious homemade cookies, zucchini bread and fresh baked wheat bread. She's always looking to give in any way she can to make life a little nicer and more special for others. Leona has taught us much about living out the Gospel in love and hospitality in everyday life as Jesus calls all of us to. It is a wonderful gift having Leona as part of our community and as an Associate of the Anawim Community. Leona speaks of Young People Who Care as "one of the best kept secrets in this area."

## *Life Line Services Go Above and Beyond*

At our Life Line Clearfield office, Angela Larson and Ronda Stiles are hometown heroes to expectant mothers and families with infants seeking help with pregnancy counseling and infant and child needs. State and federal funding guidelines restrict other agencies from assisting families with children beyond the age of 1-year old. Because of the generosity of our benefactors, we are able to extend our reach to families with children up to 2-years old. We are also able to assist a growing population of grandparents who, through necessity, have taken on the care of their grandchildren. We are also able to reach out to single dads or those dads trying to co-parent who are not otherwise eligible for assistance.

We provide diapers, formula, baby clothes, baby furniture and accessories as well as maintain an open door to listen to and guide our clients and provide resource and referral lists to match them with other agencies who can provide additional help.

We do not turn anyone away. We are able to go above and beyond for our families thanks to the generous support of our many benefactors who make this vital ministry of life possible. Thank you!!

**Contact Angela Larson,  
Life Line Clearfield 814-765-3225**

BETHANY MINISTRIES  
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CARE  
PO BOX 129  
FRENCHVILLE PA 16836-0129

**Contact us at:**

Bethany Retreat Center 814-263-4855  
Bethany Youth Center 814-263-4177

**Check out our website for events and updates at [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org)**



*Let us Pray for You*

When we pray, we are making our requests known to a living God who loves us more than we can even comprehend. Whatever your circumstance, we want to pray for you. So please send us your prayer request in the enclosed envelope. The Anawim Community will begin praying for you as soon as we know of your need.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My prayer need:

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*Bethany Ministries, Young People Who Care is a Catholic grassroots ministry which is a religious nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization.*